MONTEREY NEWS

SEPTEMBER 1997
VOLUME XXVII · Number 9

THE TOWN

Special Town Meeting. A Special Town Meeting will be held September 5, 1997, at 7 p.m. at the Fire Station for the purpose of seeing if the Town will vote to amend the Town Zoning Bylaws to put a moratorium of six months on construction of commercial wireless communication facilities in the Town. Due to the Telecommunications Act of 1996 the telecommunications field is undergoing explosive growth, specifically with regard to the placement of telecommunications towers. During a workshop presented by the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, engineers from the telecommunications industry pointed out the locations in Berkshire County where it is not possible to use cellular phones. As many users of cell phones already know, Monterey is one of these areas. This makes Monterey a prime target for the placement of telecommunications towers. The Town of Monterey has a limited number of potential sites which may be acceptable for the installation of wireless communications facilities. The Planning Board has been educating itself on the many issues involved in the placement of telecommunications towers. However, given the myriad considerations involved, the Planning Board is requesting that citizens approve a six-month moratorium on the construction of telecommunications towers. This would allow the Planning Board time to devise an orderly process for granting permits and, draft a comprehensive ordinance.

©TOM ROSENTHAL

The winning entry in the Sesquicentennial Sand Castle Contest. Builders from Andrus Construction are (left to right) John, Rick, and Denise Andrus. AC Supervisors Dan and Pat Andrus look on.

Small Cities Project. The Small Cities Project Application, presented to Monterey in conjunction with the towns of Otis and Sandisfield by Peter LaFayette and Eric Andersen from Berkshire Housing Authorities in July, was approved by the Board and submitted August 1. If approved, and the consensus is that it will be, this grant will give Monterey funds for low-income housing rehabilitation, elder and family/children services, and significant support in Town Hall improvements required by Americans with Disabilities Act, such as handicapped ramp and restroom facilities. The total request for all towns is $820,000. Plans for the renovation of Town Hall are still incomplete, but if this grant is approved, Monterey will be spared significant expense.

Dissolving the Grange. On August 11, Tolitha Butler and Charles Slater of Monterey Grange #291 submitted a letter advising the Board that as of August 29, 1997, the Grange will surrender its charter and will turn over its meeting times to the Town (as stated in the document drawn up March 26, 1988). After 87 years as an agricultural, social and service organization, it will cease to exist (*Monterey News*, August 1997,). The Grange requested that the two oil paintings and the flag remain at the Town Hall.

Back Again: One Person/One Vote. The feud between the five towns of the Southern Berkshire School District as to how to resolve the school committee representation conflict with the 14th Amendment requirement is back. The feud had heated up when Sheffield brought a lawsuit, seeking weighted voting power, against the other four towns of the district — Alford, Egremont, Monterey, and New Marlborough. Last spring, the towns' inability to resolve the question went to Judge Michael Ponsor's court in Springfield. In July, Judge Ponsor threw the question back to the five towns for resolution by December 15, after which he would render a decision.

Judge Ponsor also stipulated that the school district is not part of the lawsuit brought by Sheffield and is not liable for any legal fees incurred. Because the district can now be considered a neutral party, new Superintendent William Coo-

per has offered to mediate the dispute. The school committee welcomed this opportunity for mediation and will be convening a meeting of the towns officials for that purpose. Let us hope he is successful.

Miscellany. Andrea Dunlop was unanimously voted to the newly created post of Assistant Treasurer for a term ending June 30, 1998.

Gige O'Connell was unanimously voted to the post of Clerk to the Board of Health for a term ending June 30, 1998.

Maggie Leonard was unanimously voted to serve on the Town Report Committee for a term ending June 30, 1998.

The Board also unanimously voted to appoint Dan Moriarty, Del Martin, and Gerry Shapiro to a GIS Study Committee to investigate and establish a Graphical Information System, a computer-assisted database.

The Planning Board has appointed Jane Thorn as its secretary. The Board is currently working on a sign bylaw.

Pauline Nault reported to the Board that the Formula Grant for Elder Service, primarily used for transportation service, has been increased from $1,500 to $2,000.

— Jane Black

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AN OPEN LETTER OF THANKS

This past year I had an opportunity to be involved in one of the most satisfying projects in my memory, chairing Monterey's 150th Anniversary Celebration Committee. Although seven generations of my family have lived and worked in our town, I doubt that any of them experienced the incredible support and cooperation that was evident throughout our town during a year of planning sessions and many meetings. It was a pleasure to see hundreds upon hundreds of folks who worked, played, sang, danced, ate, swam, boated, walked, toured, and visited with their neighbors. We all had a grand time.

Ray Tryon welcomes all to the Sesquicentennial Celebration Anniversary Ball.

It's not possible here to thank every single person who volunteered (over 200 strong!), but I would like to mention a few. The Anniversary Steering Committee: Muriel Lazzarini, Peter Brown, Kim Hines, Keith Snow, Richard Nault, Dean Amidon, Anita Carroll-Weldon, Ian Jenkins, and John Ryder. The Book: Peter Murkett, Ian Jenkins, and Kim Hines. The Art Show: John and Lois Ryder, Richard and Pauline Nault. The Pancake Breakfast: Joe and Barbara Shea and their colleagues. The Anniversary Ball: Peter and Joan Brown, Del and Christine Martin, Ed and Lisa Sepanski, Muriel Lazzarini. Souvenirs: Gina Miller and Ian Jenkins. The Picnic: Gould Farm staff and guests, Karl Finger, Joe Baker and Bonner McAllester. The House Tour: Anita Carroll-Weldon and Nancy Kalodner. Kids' Games: Maggie Leonard and Tom Rosenthal. The Boating Regatta: David Quisenberry. The Interfaith Service: Keith Snow. And the Monterey Fire Company for great support throughout the year.

Sincerest thanks to each and every one who pitched in and helped! It's been a pleasure and a privilege, and it all proved to me, 'tis the people who make the place.

— Ray Tryon

Peter S. Vallianos
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***

I will meet with you at your home in Monterey.

Can you recognize the winsome women and the guys in ties? Enjoying the festivities are, from left to right, Maureen Banner, Ian Jenkins, Maria Jenkins, Mike Banner, Evelyn Valianos, and Peter Valianos. That's Jack Ryder in the background.

How the pro's do it. A swing dance demonstration by Bill Tenanes and Katie Hall, the Spats Cats.

All dressed up with some place to go are, from left to right, Fran Amidon, Michéle Miller, Dean Amidon, and Peter Murkett.

Tom Andrus Sr. and daughter-in-law Denise strike a happy pose.

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BOOK REVIEW

MONTEREY A Local History

Edited by Peter Murkett
with Ian Jenkins and Kim Hines
Town of Monterey, 1997
200 pages

Perhaps I am not qualified to do a thorough review of this book of social history of Monterey, being neither a historian nor a long-time Monterey resident, but I must write down some of my enthusiastic responses to this undertaking.

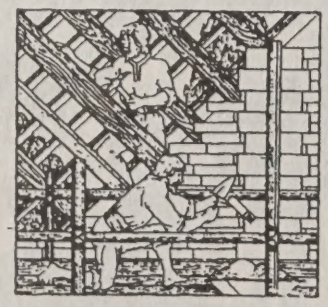
The writing is history and storytelling at its best. The chapters unfold an accurate yet rich and full description of life in Monterey through the eyes and ears of our neighbors from the past as well as the present. It is full of personality, warmth and wonderfully detailed observations of life at different times in Monterey. The photographs are extraordinary, the layout elegant and balanced, and every section is full of wonderful detail.

The writing is lively. This is not dry stuff. The pieces are of a length to be satisfying without overstating the subject. It is like a collage or tapestry of experiences and information that anyone interested in Massachusetts, history in general, or Monterey specifically will find fascinating. The letters and journals of Montereyans show that it has always been a safe haven for writers. A mixture of professional historians, school teachers, journal-keepers and residents of other assorted occupations contributed to the work.

I am personally astounded at the short amount of time in which this was assembled by editor Peter Murkett, associate editor Ian Jenkins, and production editor Kim Hines. In the February issue of the *News*, Peter introduced the project and put out a call for photographs and memorabilia. Five months later a very classy, fit-for-your-coffee table book with cover art by Monterey artist Lew Scheffey appeared for sale at the Fireman's Steak Roast on July 26.

I would encourage those of you who haven't yet checked out *Montery: A Local History* to pick up this gem for a treat in the winter months ahead.

— Laura Gaccione



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SUMMER IN MONTEREY

Here are two stories that add a touch of color to the picture of summertime in Monterey earlier this century.

The first is from Sally Fijux, past president of the Monterey Historical Society. Sally's grandfather, John Pearson, attended an auction while visiting Sheffield in 1906. Two weeks later he owned a farm in Monterey. His farmhouse was the first house on the right on Art School Road, an old dwelling with a broad roof and low eaves. It is now owned by Sandy Banks and Lindsay Pontius.

Mr. Pearson was a "gentleman farmer," according to Sally, who raised every possible crop and animal. Sally often visited her grandfather throughout her childhood, and was given her own lamb. Her brother was given a black goat, as well as a small wagon and a harness. Mornings during the summer, Sally and her brother would catch the goat and hitch him to the wagon for the ride into town, where they picked up the mail. The uphill ride back to the farm proved troublesome. More often than not, the goat refused to pull them home, and they would have to get help loading the goat into the wagon, where he would sit as they pulled him home themselves. The accompanying photograph (photographer unknown, courtesy June Tryon) was evidently taken on a day when the goat was feeling unusually strong and generous. The date pencilled on the back of the photo is 1935.

The other story comes to us from Bobbi Rosenthal Weiss, now of Southfield. She attended Camp Owaissa for twelve years in the nineteen-fifties and -sixties. Owaissa was one of two camps run by Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Jayson; the other was Camp Monterey for boys. She reports a summer full of typical camp activities, including a variety of sports, swimming, boating, and waterskiing on Lake Garfield.

In the evenings campers and counselors produced skits, held talent shows, and watched movies after the Wednesday night cookouts. A coveted prize for best skit or first place in a talent show was a walk to Monterey. Bobbi writes: Ten or twelve campers assembled near the dining room at the top of the hill. Once lined up with a "buddy," we headed out the driveway onto Hupi Road and turned left onto the Tyringham Road, passing the town beach. At every turn we looked for the church steeple which would signal that our destination was near. When we got to Main Road, the counselors went into Tryon's Tea Room, and we campers turned left past Brookbend Inn to a little one-pump gas station with a small store opposite the old firehouse. We had arrived at Parker Harmon's! We pushed open the screen door and before it could slam shut we were greeted by Polly: "Hello hello, I'm Polly!" The parrot sat on a perch, uncaged. She made us laugh. We fed Polly words and phrases and giggled and howled as she repeated every one of them. Then one of the campers would begin to laugh with a distinct cackle, and Polly would scream and laugh in perfect imitation. We reeled with laughter until the tears ran down our cheeks. Before we left we lined up for double-dip ice cream cones at 20¢, and got a bag of penny candy to take back to camp. In too short a time the counselors would come round us up. We bade Polly good-bye forty or fifty times, and headed back to camp, each with her "buddy" at her side. It was the most prized outing of the summer—a walk to Monterey!

— Peter Murkett

Sally Fijux and her brother make the morning mail run circa 1935.

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MONTERREY

A LOCAL HISTORY

Went fishing. Had a mess of roasted fish. Worked hard at haying. Use my spare time in reading, sleeping, and going to the City. I love that place.

— Page 53 (words of Elihu Harmon, age 21, 1871)

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WE HAD A BALL

Even before the last notes were played at the 150th Anniversary Ball, so many people said, "This is great...we should do it every year!" or, "Why don't we do it more often?"

Spring Swing? Holiday Hop? Fall Frolic? How does a dress-up-and-dance time sound to you? If you'd like to be involved with decorating or dancing, planning or partying, just speak to one of the Sesquicentennial Anniversary Ball committee members or drop a note to P.O. Box 706, Monterey, MA, 01245. We all had such a grand time, we'd like to do it again! How about you?

— Anniversary Ball Committee

MEETING HOUSE CAMPAIGN

Once again, a town that is well known for its community spirit and "can do" attitude is coming together to work on a project of benefit to all. Monterey's meeting house is in serious need of restoration, and townspeople — both summer residents and year 'rounders — are pitching in.

The funding comes from all quarters of the town's populace, according to Dr. Robert Emmel, chair of the committee which seeks to restore the town's 150-year-old Meeting House.

"People from all religious backgrounds, from agnostic to evangelical, Jewish and Christian, are working together to save the building," said Emmel, whose committee has raised $115,000 toward a goal of just over $200,000. "We've had some very generous pledges, and we've had a lot people dig into their checkbook and see what they could contribute. We hope everyone will undertake to give something — whatever they can. One young man very generously gave the $1.66 he had in his piggy bank."

The building is used by many different groups - the Food Co-op, town political committees, service groups, a Congregational Church - and is the historic symbol the center of the village. The building of the meeting house in 1847-8 was the final step toward a break with Tyringham. The town of Monterey declared its independence by building this important structure in the center of the new village.

A building committee will be formed, and planning for specific restoration projects will start in the fall.

Contributions may be sent to the Monterey Meeting House Capital Campaign, P.O. Box 182, Monterey, MA 01245 and are tax deductible.

— Kathy Wasiuk

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-- *Matthew Breuer, a Roadside regular*

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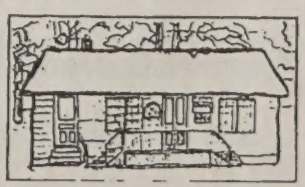

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THE BIDWELL HOUSE

Each time you open your attic or cellar door, is your conscience tweaked by that old chair, missing a seat, that needs repair? Did you find some wonderful bargain chairs at yard sales this summer that need seats?

The Bidwell House **Chair Seat Weaving Workshop** will teach you the Shaker method of repairing chair seats by weaving them with chair tape. You will end up with a renewed chair, an eased conscience, and a technique for a new craft. The workshop will be held on Saturday, September 6 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Advance reservations are required because we need to order the chair tape in a color of your choice. Cost of the workshop is $50, which includes the chair tape. You must bring a chair to weave and your own lunch. Call 528-6888 for reservations.

September will mark the beginning of the replacement of the museum roof and painting of the exterior of the main building. Thanks to grants from foundations and the Massachusetts Historic Commission and donations from museum members, Monterey residents, and several local businesses, we raised enough money to take care of these much needed repairs.

The Bidwell House has also received a grant of $3,000 from the Xeric Foundation of Northampton for funding of a program for local students called **Learning History Through the Land**. The pilot program of this project brought students from two fourth grades of the Stockbridge Plain School to the Bidwell House this past May. During their visit the students learned how the history of the land in Berkshire County changed from the arrival of the first white settlers to around the mid-nineteenth century when farms began to be abandoned. The Bidwell House landscape is a classic example of this transition.

In addition, the museum has received a partial grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council to help fund a collaborative program with the Eastern Native Seeds Conservancy. This is a joint cultural and economic venture to raise awareness of heirloom tomato varieties by involving several local farmers, restaurants, retail stores and cultural organizations in growing these plants and making them available to the public. As part of the program the Bidwell House raised five of these antique varieties so the public could see them growing in a garden setting. The museum also hosted a free Tomato Tasting, on August 29, to give the public a first-hand sampling of some of these old varieties.

— Anita Carroll-Weldon

BOAT RIDES A SUCCESS

Over thirty persons enjoyed a ride on Lake Garfield on August 3. Many thanks to Jean Germain and Dr. Hugh DeMartino, who offered their pontoon boats for this Sesquicentennial event. Additional persons were waiting to go out on the lake, but a thunderstorm threatened. Many thanks also to Lena Pederson, who welcomed us to Kinne's Grove.

— Jana Shepard
Vice President, Lake Garfield Association

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The indefatigable Ian Jenkins snares several customers at the Sesquicentennial Souvenir booth.

A MILEPOST

It was truly a sensational sesquicentennial. A town turns 150-years-old only once, and accordingly, all the stops were pulled out for the big celebration. It was gratifying to see so many people pitching in to make our sesquicentennial birthday a memorable one. Reporting on the weekend's festivities, the *Berkshire Eagle* described Monterey as "the closest knit of close-knit communities."

That is an interesting characterization. It all begins as people wanting to get something accomplished. In this case it was a sesquicentennial celebration. Sixteen years ago, when I first came to town, it was an energy-saving contest called Monterey Lights the Way. These events are similar in that they both took a tremendous amount of volunteer effort to accomplish. There are the hours of meetings, scheduling, and phone calls. Then, suddenly, amidst all the activity, you look at your neighbors and realize that you have all created something much larger than yourselves. It is amazing and exhilarating.

This town is an embarassment of riches. So many talented people are willing to share their gifts. It is my goal, as the new editor of the *Monterey News*, to continue the tradition this paper has instituted, of exhibiting these talents. The learning curve for this job is steep, and the paper may look or sound a little funny as I get a handle on it. I ask for your patience. At the same time I would like to solicit your ideas, criticisms, and contributions for the *News*. My phone number is 528-1170, or drop me a line at P.O. Box 451, Monterey, MA 01245.

— Maggie Leonard

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COUNCIL ON AGING

FLU CLINIC. The Annual Flu Clinic administered by the Berkshire Visiting Nurse Association will be held on Tuesday, October 21, between 9 and 11 a.m. in the basement of the Town Hall. Influenza (a.k.a. the flu) is a serious disease. It is most common in the United States from December to April, so it is best to get the vaccine in the Fall. The flu shot is recommended every year for people age 65 or older. It is also recommended for people younger than 65 who have medical conditions such as heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, etc., and for others who work or live with high-risk individuals.

SENIOR LUNCHEON. The Monterey Council on Aging will host a luncheon at noon on Friday, September 19, in the basement of the Town Hall. Police Chief Garreth Backhaus will be attending the event and will be happy to discuss any questions or issues that might affect Monterey's senior citizens. Plan on coming to enjoy a delicious lunch and also to have any concerns answered.

— Pauline Nault
Chair, Monterey Council On Aging

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Monterey Historical Society will present a narrated slide program, **When Iron Was King**, at 7:30 on Friday, September 5, at the General Knox Museum in Monterey. The presentation will be given by historian/geologist Ed Kirby.

Ed Kirby's presentation covers 190 years of iron production in the Berkshire Hills and Housatonic River Valley from Lanesborough, Massachusetts, south to Kent, Connecticut and Dover Plains, New York. Beginning with the formation of local iron ore hundreds of millions of years ago, the slide narrative guides the viewer through the discovery of iron ore to the use of early forges and the development of the blast furnace.

The visuals presented include photographs of early forge foundations, quarries, charcoal operations, diagrams of furnace construction, pictures of several blast furnaces in operation in 1880 and many blast furnace remains as they appear today.

Ed Kirby is the author of published articles on baseball, local history and characters of the American West as well as a number of papers on geology. He has two published books on Old West characters. The latest, *Exploring the Berkshire Hills: A Guide to the Geology and Early Industry of the Housatonic Watershed*, will be on sale following the program.

Admission is free. Refreshments will be served.

— Barbara Tryon

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SENATOR SAYS

I am pleased with the successes of my first legislative sessions, but grateful to have more time to spend in the district during the summer. Celebrations of "Old Home Day" in Rowe and "Yankee Doodle Day" in Charlemont gave me a chance to meet more folks from my Franklin towns. A meeting with Selectmen and officials from the Department of Environmental Management in Clarksburg will lead to an aggressive approach to cleaning and maintaining the swimming area at the State Park in that town. This month includes a visit to the Middlefield Fair and an evening at the Chester Miniature Theatre. I hope to see you there!

Military Pensions Given Tax Exemptions. The Senate passed legislation last month which exempts military pensions from taxation. Many other states grant such an exemption, and I believe that those who have dedicated themselves to military service for this country deserve consideration in their retirement years. I certainly would not want to see any of our resident veterans move out of state because we did not afford them the same benefit available elsewhere.

Three separate bills were combined by the Joint Committee on Taxation in April to form one comprehensive bill. It is estimated that 17,000 Massachusetts military retirees will benefit from the legislation, which will be effective for the 1997 tax year. The bill is awaiting action by the House and then will go to the Governor's office. I will provide an update in this column when information is available which will help affected retirees to adjust their withholding or otherwise respond to this change in their taxes.

Heritage Tree Grants. Funds for pruning, cabling and fertilization of our oldest and largest community trees located on public property are available through the Urban Forestry Program. The review process for this grant program will favor communities that have completed a "heritage tree contest" or similar outreach campaign with local residents locating the largest, most significant trees on public land. Only municipalities are eligible to apply, but community groups and commercial operators are encouraged to participate in applying on behalf of the community tree warden. If you would like an application, please contact Sandy MacKinnon for an application (617) 727-3180 x568 or me at (617) 722-1625. Applications are due by October 10, 1997.

Forest Management Appointment. In case you are worried that I can't see the forest for the trees, I am pleased to let you know that I have been appointed by Senate President Thomas F. Birmingham to serve on the state's Special Commission on Forest Management. The Commission formulates long-term goals for the improvement and preservation of our state forests. My senatorial district contains more acreage of state forest than any other legislative district. The stewardship of these natural treasures is a great responsibility to be shared by the Commonwealth and local communities, and my new role will allow me to be an effective liaison.

Even before my recent appointment, I discussed the Commission's role with officials from the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) and with local environmentalists. They encouraged me to focus on such things as promoting wood resources as an economic development strategy for the small towns of western Massachusetts. An example would be jointly developing standards with MassHighway, and then promoting the use of wooden bridges in the northeast. These bridges are appropriate for the scale of many local roads, and can boost local economies by using materials developed locally. Development of alternative, renewable energy sources through the use of low-grade wood is another topic of interest to the Commission. Please let me know if you have ideas for the Commission on furthering the economic and ecological future of the Commonwealth's forests.

— Senator Andrea F. Nuciforo, Jr.

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A YAWN AND A SIGH

Yesterday's (August 18) vote by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America assembly meeting in Philadelphia, to recognize the validity of ordained clergy and the sacrament of Holy Communion (Lord's Supper or Eucharist) of the Reformed churches (Presbyterian, Reformed Church of America, and United Church of Christ), as reported on Public Radio, produced a yawn and a sigh. I guess the decision is to be applauded if for no other reason than it's apparent attempt to resolve a 500 year old dogmatic and institutional difference of opinion. I suspect the person on the street could care less! (I'm trying hard not to be cynical! But I don't think that I am succeeding.)

So what is all the fuss about? Once upon a time, the only Christian "game" in western Europe was the Roman Catholic Church. The clergy, from the Pope down to the parish priest, pretty well called the shots when it came to religious and political power. Their apparent (religious) and real (political) power, included the here and the hereafter. Since the clergy were just about the only people who could read, the Bible was not accessible to the common person. In that sense, information was power. When that power was increasingly used with self-serving arrogance, protest was inevitable. Some of the more famous persons protesting were Martin Luther, John Calvin, and Ulrich Zwingli. There were countless others. The movement became what is generally called the Protestant Reformation.

It was not too long after that protest began that the Protestants began squabbling among themselves. The result is evident in the small towns, villages and cities of America. Anyone who wants to can read the Bible. Anyone who wants to can pray to God without having to go through an intermediary. Who needs the clergy? Who needs the church?

It is this 500 years of Protestant squabbling that was partly addressed at the various Reformed and Lutheran meetings this past year (obviously, I am being terribly superficial) What I find intriguing, is that the denominational actions, I think, are irrelevant. Not only that, I believe that there is a note of arrogance in all this institutional huffing and puffing.

I think that most people who attend church today are not particularly concerned about the dogmatic teachings that were once literally life and death issues. People were hanged, burned at the stake, stretched on the rack, and drawn and quartered, for their religious beliefs. Is exclusivity the reason to worship God? Maybe it is the reason to attend church. (That is still very much alive today.) Then the fine line separating idol (church) worship and God worship has been crossed. Somehow, I think that distinction has been lost in the recent denominational gatherings this summer. They have been pronouncing that, from now on, each other's clergy will have standing (i.e. be recognized as legitimate) regardless of denomination. But they will still have to undergo "testing" if they do request a transfer. And if found wanting, they will have to fulfill their requirements. That is certainly the prerogative of each denomination; to do what they believe is appropriate regarding clergy standards.

In addition, anyone who wishes can receive the sacrament of Holy Communion in any of the four denominations. I think most people have been doing that for some time! There is not a church, from Roman Catholic to Southern Baptist, where I have not been able to "take Communion". Here is where I have found the arrogance of the institutional church insufferable. This particular ritual is an outgrowth of the organized church. I do not believe that Jesus said that there was only one way to do it. Not only that, I don't think that he said that only certain religious groups could dictate who (clergy) could give Communion and who could receive it. But throughout the 2,000 year history of the Christian Church that is exactly what has happened. That is what I call arrogance. Who does the institutional church think it is to determine (dictate) who is to receive the love and grace of God?

The four denominations are simply acknowledging what has been happening for years. It is a nice gesture on their part. But I think it is irrelevant. The local church has moved on to more important issues; inclusiveness, for example. How are we (Christians) going to live in an increasingly multi-cultural society? If anything, I am grateful for their decision, because it illustrates how redundant and irrelevant much of our denominational bureaucracy has become. Their irrelevancy simply serves to sharpen the focus on the inclusive love of God and the Christian's need to bear witness to that same love in our daily life.

— Rev. Keith Snow

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THE PERTURBATION OF MY PADDLE

As I move down the misty lake
A snapper, all snout and eyes,
Breaks the surface, hastily withdraws.
Farther on, another does the same.

Did they come, having heard
The perturbation of my paddle,
Thinking it might be ducks
With whom they could have
Interesting dietary business?

Shortly after, I overtake
A small mallard flotilla,
Two parents and only two ducklings.
So vulnerable to underwater predation,
Where are the others?

— David McAllester

©MICHELE MILLER

Goldilocks in reverse. Mama bear finds the Miller/Murkett porch just right.

ATTIC EMPTYING

Why would a man buy land
raise the house a story higher
send his son into a profession
install central heating, and—
in the next New England winter—
die?

Why would a woman make
a thousand patches into a whole
go to a quilting party
with a score of friends, but at home
alone pack it away
brand new forever?

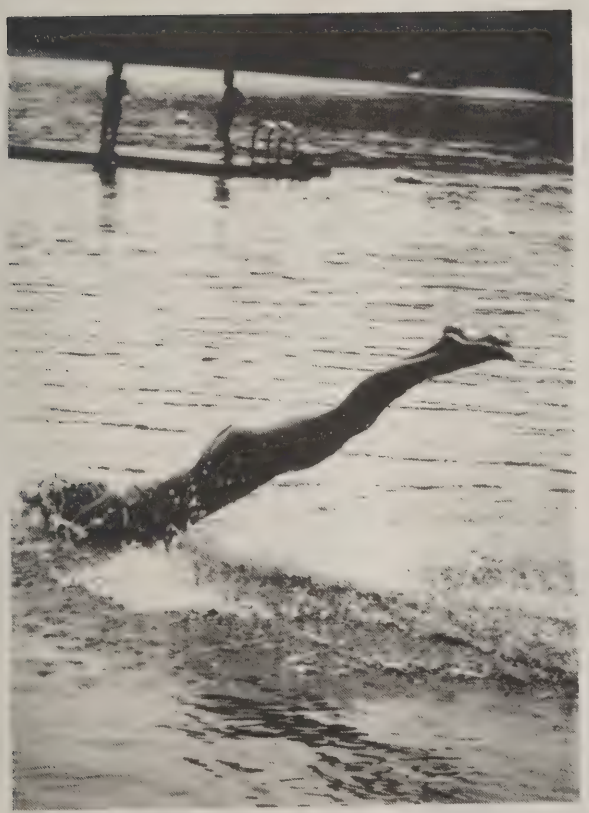
The attic mice had babies
in an old pine box
but none were born in the hope chest
dovetailed of heavy cedar.
Its waits outside for the dealer,
and some falls on its shoulders
like a crocheted shrug.

— Susan McAllester

ROOT PATTERNS

When I dig up young trees
Invading the Dowd Meadow marches,
I learn the root patterns:
The subtle poplar whose root
Snaps off at a touch, leaving
Most of it underground to grow and grow;
The innocent birch who comes up
Entire, glad to oblige when asked;
The forthright oak whose taproot
Heads straight for China,
Is halfway there in two years.

— David P. McAllester



Lifeguard Carrie Negrini takes the plunge.

PERSEPHONE

Persephone's room is all pink rosebuds -
she has a princess four-poster bed
white with a white canopy
dolls and teddybears and a framed picture
of Daddy and Mommy when they were young -
Persephone's closet blooms with flowered dresses
shetland sweaters and matching skirts
and she has a cork bulletin board
with a school banner, a faded corsage
from you know who -
Persephone's mother is mild and sweet
she belongs to the Garden Club and to
St. Margaret's Guild —
Today's the equinox and Miss Stein at school
said to look out the window and notice the position of
the setting sun
Persephone leans on the chintz cushions
while opening the latticed windows
and there is a god there
a god with dark eyes and dark intent
a dark sweater and a dark gun
she screams, but as the sun sets
she is already down the black well of time
when Persephone's mother returns
she says: Oh, dear!

— A.O. Howell

THE KILLDEER'S SOLUTION

Anybody who knows the killdeer knows it is a noisy bird, yelling and shrieking from the time the first males arrive back north in the spring until the babies have fledged (flown). When I was little I asked my parents why the killdeers screamed so much and the answer I got went something like this: Killdeers don't put much effort at all into nest building. They lay their eggs right out in the open where anyone could step on them. Then the price they pay for this poor planning is that they have to spend all their time nervously shrieking whenever danger threatens.

In fact, my parents were never anthropomorphic moralizers. I probably put a little Aesop spin on the thing myself and came up with the idea that it is somehow better to plan ahead, work hard to build your house of, say, bricks, so you can relax later on when the wolf comes around. In the case of the three little pigs, it was clearly the house of bricks which had survival value in the face of wolf predation. But a killdeer might argue that the other two pigs who built of mud and straw just hadn't perfected the art of screaming and yelling. As we see in the killdeer, this plan works as well as any sturdy hollow-tree sort of nest where the parent birds whack and work away for days making a place where they can then cower quietly when the wolf or cat or person comes along. A killdeer might argue that whacking for days and then cowering is no fun compared with swooping and yelling, putting on a great show of broken wings and luring the predator away. This is active drama, show-biz. This is participating in life.

Of course these success stories are never as simple as we would like to believe. To save its babies the killdeer does not merely holler at the wolf. In the first place, killdeers have evolved their eggs and babies to be invisible. They nest on stony or pebbly ground, or playing fields or rooftops. The four buffy-creamy eggs are splotched cleverly with thick streaks of brown to lavender so that they blend in perfectly with their background. Set them up in a heavy nest of mud and twigs and any wolf can find them no matter how you yell and scream to distract it. But lay them in a plain shallow depression (so they can't roll away), and they are indistinguishable.

Killdeer, about ten inches.

Then the babies are incubated a long time, up to four weeks, when they hatch out downy and strong, ready to run and to forage for themselves. Killdeers have "precocial" young, very tough, as opposed to "altricial" babies which hatch out blind, naked, and helpless. Killdeer babies hatched on pebbly rooftops have survived temperatures as high as 138° F. and have fallen unharmed from fifty feet up.

The new babies' feathers are fine and soft, but they already have the "disruptive coloration" of the adults. Their broad black and white bands on face and breast interrupt their outline so they don't show up on the kind of variegated background which is their typical habitat.

Killdeers are plovers, a group we usually think of as shorebirds. If you hear or see a killdeer you are likely to get that same seaside feeling you might get from a gull, even though it is flying over the inland landfill or hayfield. This feeling is not misplaced— plovers really are shorebirds, and so are gulls. But killdeers have adapted to life inland and make their living eating 75% insects and the rest other sorts of invertebrates such as worms in a freshly plowed field. Like the shorebirds you might see running up and down a beach, killdeers have long, athletic legs. They go tearing along with their wings folded high on their backs, their bodies tilted a little forward. Then they'll stop suddenly, to look around. Sometimes they run with their wings upstretched, giving a vocal performance which is a rattling torrent of high-pitched notes. Mostly what they say is "killdeer," but they don't mean it. They pose no threat to deer, it's just that their insistent, repeated call sounds like "killdeer," or "killdeah," or "keedeeah."

If we can resist the temptation to make moralistic judgments about other people, based on what we observe of the lives of the wild animals, we might take a look at the killdeer and understand that not everyone is like the brick-building pig of Aesop and diversity is the mother of open-mindedness. Robins work to build their nests of mud and straw, like those other two pig examples. As a kid I did to find them blown down sometimes, but of course it was no wolf that did the huffing and puffing. The kind of storms we get around here lately, you'd do a lot better to be a splotchy egg sitting on the gravel than anything else.

— Bonner J. McAllester

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The Roadsides. Yellow: goldenrod, black-eyed Susans, mullein; white: Queen Anne's lace, the thin efflorescence of six-foot sweet clover, the frothy topping of wild clematis' flower spikes running in waves on the upper twigs of the roadside shrubbery; blue: the candid eyes of chicory or cornflower in the waste places.

The Lakesides and Wet Places. Magenta: purple loosestrife everywhere, excoriated, inevitable, gorgeous; pink: wildroses, Jo Pyeweed, steeple bush (spirea), water polygonum (smartweed); white: meadowsweet, water lilies, elderberry, arrowhead, turtlehead, and swamp azalea recapitulating the fragrance of the pinxter of April-May; blue: forget-me-not, pickerelweed; yellow: swamp candles.

Woods and Fields. White: wood asters, pipsissewa, Indianpipe, avens, fleabane; red: clover; yellow: evening primrose, yellow loosestrife; blue: vervain, blue curls; purple: wild thyme, groundnut. All this tumult of color is carried on in the berries and fruit now ripening: red baneberries nearly gone, white ones at their peak, blueberries, clintonia (bright blue), black cherries, raspberries, blackberries (red when they're green).

Vociferation. This is a time when porcupines are busy in the poplar-tops, cutting twigs, eating the leaves and littering the ground with the leftovers. On August 8, one of these pruners spent half an hour whining and giving little squeals in a poplar at the east end of Hupi Road. Each phrase had the petulant down-glide that may explain the sobriquet "fretful porcupine." All through the woods the red-eyed vireos are carrying on their lengthy conversations with themselves—my bird book says as many as forty non-stop repetitions. I counted 120, 280, 3, 28, 123, 12, etc. between short breaks. On the lake, blackbirds are defending their territory with clucking, chucking, and intermittent high squeaks directed at other birds or a passing canoeist. Coyotes are giving their sudden, wild, vocal outbreaks. One such was near the stables at Kinallen Farm, in early August. Sudi Baker reported that it sounded like dozens of animals, each one gives such a variety of yips, yaps, yodels and yells.

An Unusual Visitor. Alice and Arthur Somers saw a little blue heron in the pond near the Red Bird Inn, off Route 57, east of New Marlboro in early August. They are used to them in Florida, but this was their first sight of one in the Berkshires. Alice said it was in the papers that Don Reed, the naturalist at Ashley Falls, reported one there, near Bartholomew's Cobble and birders came from far and wide to see it.

Llamas on Coyote Duty. Two of these beautiful and amiable South American camels have been loaned to Gould Farm to protect their sheep from coyote attacks. They are friendly with people but aggressive, nimble and formidable when it comes to predators. This defensive measure seems to be working very well.

Notes from Dale Duryea. This column has been helped greatly by Dale's wildlife observations in the region. Though Martin Clark is now the town's Wildlife Control Officer, Dale can still be consulted in a private capacity. Mr. Clark can be reached via the Monterey Police at 528-3211. (See other information on dealing with wildlife problems, especially bears, in the August issue of the *Monterey News*.)

Dale reports a blond coyote, the end of July, in his field within 200 yards of the house. Dale was in Vermont recently, where people have been seeing red foxes making eccentric jumps into the air and thinking it might be rabid behavior. Actually it is a mouse-hunting technique common with foxes. He says that a moose was spotted in Otis and that they are noted for their long-distance travel. Three have been seen in the Boston area. About the end of July a bobcat was seen crossing Route 23 in Monterey. The beavers are busy everywhere: the overflow at Pearson's Pond on Tyringham Road is the scene of one of several recent damming operations.

The *Berkshire Eagle* of August 17 reported a child in Sheffield bitten by a skunk. This is so rare that it is highly likely the animal was rabid. As always, be cautious of wild animals: any one of them coming near you is exhibiting unusual behavior.

— David McAllester

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To the Readers of the Monterey News:

Imagine if you will the center of the village without the Meeting House anchoring one corner. Project a MacDonald's into that space - or another store, with neon flashing in the window. Or just an empty lot, used by no one. Doesn't look much like Monterey anymore, does it? And not just the physical view has changed ...

It changes the landscape to imagine that venerable building gone - but also feels like a place without a center. For a hundred and fifty years, that building has been a symbol of what Montereyans value and live by: a community that works together, the life of the spirit, however you see it, and a history of both staunch independence and thoughtful interdependence.

But it's only stones and clapboard, and therefore mortal. It's in serious need of help. The kind of nickel-dime, patch, patch, patch approach won't do it this time. So, I hope that everyone who values the kind of life that's possible here, in this stubborn, spirited place, so grandly endowed by Nature, will help save the past for the future by digging into their pocket and sending something along to help restore the Meeting House. The next generations of tornado relief workers, food cooperative folks, Scouts, lake committees, performers, artists, political groups, and community supper eaters will surely appreciate the fact that you were generous. You're a part of Monterey aren't you? So, sit down this afternoon and write a check to the Monterey Meeting House Campaign at P.O. Box 182, would you? Anything would help - everything counts. We'll put the names of every donor up in the vestibule, regardless of amount... And thanks very much.

— Kathy Page Wasiuk

Fierce competition at the basketball tournament.

UPON MY WORD!

Though nobody protested, I need to correct a statement in the article about Sophia. The Greek name for the third person in the Holy Trinity was Hagia Sophia (feminine) for Holy Wisdom. The Latin, by contrast was Spiritus Sanctus (masculine). The result was that the triune godhead became all masculine in subsequent centuries. Thus, subtly, by inference the feminine aspect of the sacred got left out.

Turning to a lighter topic: it was my mother who pointed out to me another source of delight. She commented on how pretty some of the names of diseases are, and what a pity that one could not have a series of daughters named for them. She suggested Syphilis Webster, and I came up with Euthanasia and Malaria Jenkins. Then you could have Roseola and Pox Perkins or twins called Phlebitis and Eczema Jones!

Later I discovered that Syphilis actually was once the name of a Greek nymph. An obscure Italian poet in the Renaissance wrote an ode to her and subsequently died of the disease which then was named oddly in his memory.

— Alice O Howell

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THE FAMILY NETWORK

Workshops and Calendar

The Family Center is located at 940 South Main Street, Great Barrington; call 528-0721 for more information.

A series of eight Fathering Workshops will be offered to fathers of children aged birth to six years at the Family Center, 940 South Main Street, Great Barrington, beginning September 15. Anton Luttenberger, coordinator of the Fathers Group for the Family Network of the Children's Health Program, Inc., said that the program was made possible by a grant from the Children's Trust Fund and will be offered free of charge.

The workshops will cover the following topics: deep relaxation, playfulness, health, and parenting education. Luttenberger said, "We are especially hoping to see men enroll who just want to relax more and have some more fun with their children as well as exploring topics like positive discipline, goal setting, and building self-esteem."

Presenters of the workshop will include Jeanne Bassis of Play Reflection, who will present on October 13 and 27; Nicholas Manuel, licensed mental health counselor, who will present an anger management workshop on November 10; Jeff Hine, social worker, and Anton Luttenberger, who will co-facilitate "One-Minute Father" book discussion segments on November 24, December 8 and 15. Luttenberger, a certified yoga therapist, will lead workshops on relaxation and stress awareness on September 15 and 29. All sessions will be held at 6:30 p.m. Preregistration is requested. Childcare can be arranged with advance notice.

Here is our calendar:

September 1. Labor Day, Center Closed.

September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30. Mother and Baby Exercise Class, preregistration required, 11 a.m. Drop-in time 3-5 p.m.

September 3. Breastfeeding Support Group 9 a.m. at the Center for Adolescent and Pediatric Health Care, fourth floor, Fairview Hospital, 528-8580.

September 3, 10, 17, 24. Drop-in time 10 a.m.-noon.

September 4, 11, 18, 19. Drop-in time 10 a.m.-noon.

September 5, 12, 19, 26. Drop-in time 3-5 p.m.

September 8, 15, 22, 29. Drop-in time 10 a.m.-noon.

September 10. Multiple Birth Parents Meeting, 6 p.m.

September 10. Moms Group, Barrington OBGYN, West Avenue, 4 p.m.

September 11. Playgroup Leader Training, 6 p.m.

September 12. Field trip to Pleasant Valley Sanctuary, 10 a.m.; meet at the Lenox site.

September 13. Fathers Group will visit Barrington Agricultural Fair, 10 a.m.

September 15. Fathers Group, 6:30 p.m. (see above for details).

September 17. Program about Home Schooling, 6:30 p.m. Please call for information and to register. Childcare available with advance notice.

September 19. Morning Victorian Tea for families with babies born since January 1997, 10 a.m.

September 19. Apple Day at Gould Farm; snack, apple picking, story, crafts. McKee School, 10 a.m.

September 21. 17th Annual Pumpkin Festival, Tall Pines Farm, Monterey, 1:30-4:30 p.m. For information call 528-9266.

September 24. Effective Discipline workshop led by Bob Boyston, 6:30 p.m. Please call for information and to register. Childcare available with advance notice.

September 24. Moms Group, Barrington OBGYN, West Ave., 11 a.m.

September 25. Spanish-Speaking Storytime and Activity, 5 p.m.

September 29. Fathers Group, 6:30 p.m. (see above for details).

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PERSONAL NOTES

All too soon summer has come to an end and it is time for school to begin again. All those who spent time at Lake Garfield this summer will be sorry to say goodbye to our lifeguards as they climb down from the chair and head back to college. **Samantha Goldfinger** is going into her sophomore year at the University of Vermont and **Carrie Negrini** will be a junior at Vanderbilt University. Good luck to both of you and thank you for guarding us all so well.

©TOM ROSENTHAL

Lifeguards Carrie Negrini (left) and Samantha Goldfinger (right) wrap up the summer at Lake Garfield.

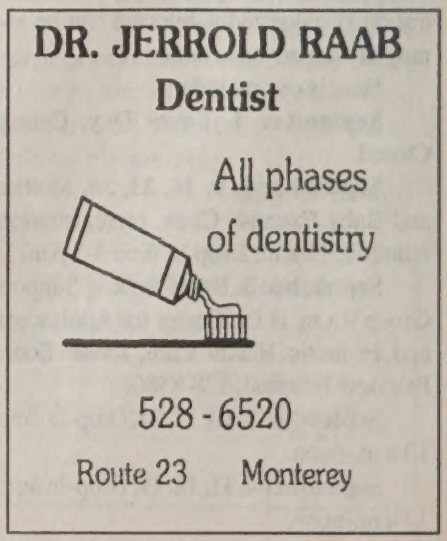
A number of Monterey teens begin their college careers this month. Among them are **Morgan Clawson** at the University of Massachusetts, **Jeff Pilot** at the University of Rhode Island, and **Katherine Wolf** at Grinnell College in Iowa. **Shaylan Burkhardt** has already begun a year of study as an exchange student in Brazil, and tells his parents he is enjoying it very much. **Marta Makuc**, who graduated from Providence College this year, is now in Chicago and will spend a year working with inner city schoolchildren. She is working as a volunteer in a program run by the Domincans in Chicago and we wish her every success. We wish a fun and successful year to you and to all the Montereyans working and studying away form home this year.

Very Happy Birthday wishes to **Dinah Mielke** on September 2, to **Gabrielle Haapanen** on September 3, to **Micole Raab** and **Katie Vallianos** on September 4, **Chris Blair** on September 5, to **Christopher Monk** on September 11, to **Parker Gauthier** and **Mary Kate Jordan** on September 12, to **Jeff Gauthier** on September 13, to **Christina Vallianos** on September 23, to **Ellen Coburn** on September 24, to **Stephanie Grotz** on September 26, to **Marcus Sheridan** on September 27, to **Rodney Palmer** and **Ray Tryon** on September 28, and to **Scott Sheridan** and **Susie Sheridan** on September 29.

Happy Anniversary on September 7 to **Ann and John Higgins**, on September 11 to **Mark and Mary Makuc**, on September 12 to **Alice and Arthur Somers**, and to **Bob and Barbara Gauthier** and **John Humphrey and Maggie Leonard** on September 17.

We enjoy hearing your news and passing along Birthday and Anniversary greetings. If you have any you would like to share, please drop me a line at P.O. Box 351, Monterey, or give me a call at 528-6691, if possible before the twelfth of each month. Thanks so much.

Ann Higgins



CALENDAR

Sundays, AA meetings, 9 a.m. in the Monterey Firehouse, Main Road.

Friday, September 5, **"When Iron Was King"** a narrated slide program by historian/geologist Ed Kirby at the General Knox Museum at 7:30 p.m. Admission free. Refreshments served.

Saturday, September 6 The Bidwell House **Chair Seat Weaving Workshop.** Learn the traditional Shaker style of chair seat weaving, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.Admission: $50 which includes materials. Advance reservations required. Call 528-6888 for reservations and information.

Friday, September 19, **Senior Luncheon** at noon at the Town Hall. Guest will be Police Chief Garreth Backhaus.

Saturday, September 27, **Square and Contradancing** at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield, Mass. Music by Mountain Laurel, calling by Joe Baker. All dances are taught and beginners and children are welcome. Refreshments served at intermission. Adults $5, children $2, 8:30 - 11:30 p.m. Information: 413-528-9385 or 518-329-7578.

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Contributions from local artists this month: Bonner McAllester, p.14

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